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RICHMOND Y. W. C. A. AND ITS GOODWORK

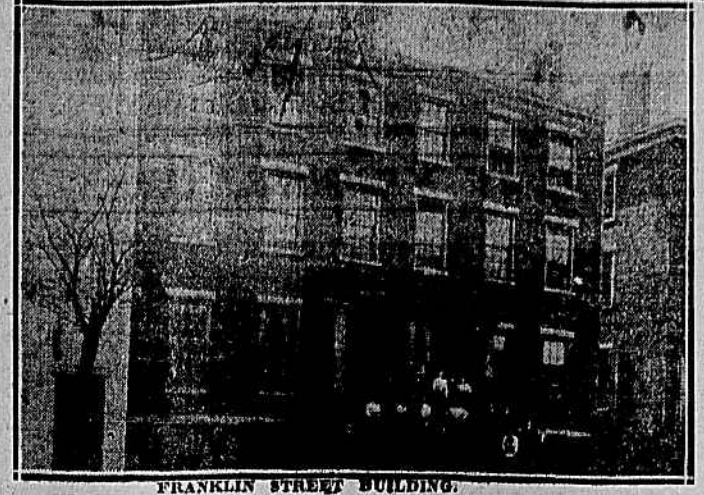
(Continued From First Page.)

beach, or in country districts." The Richmond Association. There were at one time two national organizations, one known as the Women's Christian Association and the other the Young Women's Christian Association. In all of the leading cities there were local associations operating under the auspices of one or the other of these national bodies. The one that was established in Richmond twenty-four years ago was under the Y. W. C. A. About three years ago the two national associations consolidated under the name of the National Y. W. C. A., and the Richmond local branch had only to add the latter Y. to its initials, becoming the Young Women's Christian Association. The Richmond association, like nearly all of the really great institutions in this city, started in a small way, and at first established only a central boarding house for self-sustaining girls, and had accommodations for but a few of them. After operating in this limited way about five years the association and its work were greatly enlarged. Mrs. Joseph Brown about that time became the president, and under her leadership and largely through her benevolence and that of her sisters, the Misses Stewart, the association acquired its present home, the large and commodious building Nos. 709 and 711 East Franklin Street. A few years ago the building was enlarged to some extent, and the enlargement gave it a capacity for seventy or seventy-five boarders. I could write many chapters of the good work that has been done in the Franklin Street home.

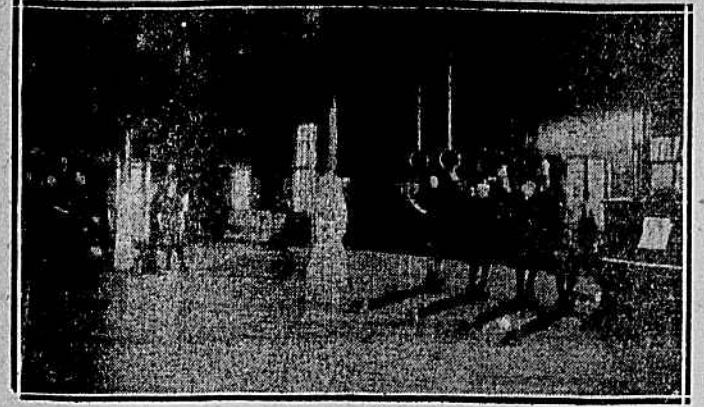
The General Secretary. After the consolidation of the two national associations some changes were made in the character of the work, the best features from the two being adopted, and a distinctive feature of the new organization was to adapt the work to meet the needs and conditions of all young women, especially business women and self-supporting girls, and this it was believed could best be done under the leadership of trained workers, the kind referred to in the article from which I quoted above. The Richmond association desired to keep pace with those of other cities. During the administration of Mrs. A. Belne Blair as president, the association asked for a train d'worker to fill the position of general secretary. Miss Constance MacCorkle, a Virginia woman of executive ability, highly educated, well trained in the peculiar work, and a woman of large experience, was selected. Miss MacCorkle was in Portland, Ore., at the time she was asked to come to Richmond. She had been there four years engaged in the association work as general secretary. Under her administration the Portland Association built a plant at a cost of \$125,000 and maintained at the Clark-Lewis Exposition the most popular woman's building on the grounds. She came to Richmond in February, 1909, and has been in charge of the work ever since. Her work here has been very successful, and the promises for the future are bright indeed.

Looking to the Future. While the association had been doing good work ever since it was first organized, and was much help to the 12,000 self-sustaining women of this city, it was felt that the time had come for an enlargement; that something more than a mere boarding house should be brought about; in fact, that the time had come when the Richmond association should be put on a basis

Y. W. C. A., An Industrial Development



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DINING HALL AND LUNCH ROOM.



ACTIVITIES IN GYMNASIUM.

similar to those of the leading cities of the country, something like Los Angeles, which has a membership of 4,000; enrollment in classes, 2,000; and a plant valued at \$350,000; like St. Louis, where a half a million dollar plant is now being erected; like Nashville, Tenn., where a \$150,000 plant has just been completed, or at least like Charlotte, N. C., where the association has just purchased a very large lot upon which a \$50,000 plant is to be erected. Richmond cannot afford to keep behind other cities like industrial importance in this kind of industrial work.

In the recent past many steps have been taken in carrying out the democratic ideas which are the basis of the organization. In the spring of 1909 a canvass for a larger and more diversified membership was made, when the roll of membership was run up to 1,400. Under this plan all women contributors became members on the payment of an annual fee of not less than \$1. Other sources of revenue are from the same kinds of contributions, lectures, endowments, etc., as go to the support of schools and colleges, thus lifting the association above the plane of a mere charitable institution.

A Strong Organization. The association is splendidly officered, as the following will show: Vice-President, Mrs. C. P. Walcott; Mrs. G. Carlton Jackson, Mrs. Beverly T. Crump, Mrs. A. Belne Blair, Mrs. S. H. Hawes, Mrs. Mann S. Quarles, Mrs. C. H. Urner, Mrs. C. E. Wingo, Mrs. J. Calvin Stewart, Mrs. Charles O. Saville, treasurer, Mrs. Charles M. Ferrell, recording secretary, Miss Elizabeth Richardson, corresponding secretary, John L. Williams, D. O. Davis, A. Cary, W. S. Rhoads, O. Summers, Morton, A. Belne Blair, and Thomas B. Bryan, advisory committee.

The immediate management is under the following experienced women:

Miss Constance MacCorkle, general secretary; Mrs. S. M. Sarvey, house and business secretary; Mrs. Florence Purcell, domestic science and dining room director; Miss Sadie Hale, membership secretary; Miss Irene Headley, physical director; Mrs. William M. Strother, librarian.

The Various Departments. The dining room and lunch department, which has a regular attendance of 110, and an irregular attendance of many more, is operated on a domestic science basis, under the direction of Mrs. Florence Purcell, who is a graduate of one of the best training schools in the country. The four girls who serve in the lunch room are paying their way through a business college, and their service here enables them to pay board expenses.

Miss Purcell also conducts a very popular class in domestic science. The dining and lunch rooms are open every day to business women and shoppers, whether they be members of the association or not, and here they get an inexpensive lunch of the best of home cooking. The lunch room is also patronized by not a few business men at the noon lunch hour.

The library is in charge of Mrs. W. M. Strother, who is the chairman of the library extension committee of the Virginia Confederation of Women's Clubs. It now consists of 2,000 volumes of more or less value.

Up-to-Date Library Hoped For. Mrs. Strother has but recently been elected librarian, and it is her purpose to organize an up-to-date library and reading room for women. In the absence of a free public library in the city she thinks this is essential. This accomplished woman has general supervision of the educational department in which a hundred young women were enrolled last year. She is now conducting a class in Shakespearean studies and voice culture, and

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by special request she will start a class in parliamentary law for the benefit of women who have to preside at club meetings, society convalesces, etc. Other educational departments are studies in rhetoric, in charge of Miss Mary Washington Hall; French embroidery, in charge of Mrs. Austin Brockenborough; millinery, in charge of Mrs. J. Winston Gills; Bible study, Thursday evenings, led by Mrs. J. Calvin Stewart; Sunday school teachers' class Tuesday evening, by Miss Catherine Headley; New Testament studies Wednesday evenings, by Miss Sadie Hale; mission studies Sunday evenings at 7 o'clock by a missionary student; vesper services every Sunday at 8:30 P. M. These religious studies and services are subject to variation.

Gymnasium and Other Departments. Stenography and typewriting are taught by Mrs. W. P. Muske, a graduate of a well-known business college, and a woman of large experience. The gymnasium, which is in charge of Miss Irene Headley Ames, is now being operated on Fourth Street, near Cary. Miss Katherine Hawes having loaned the association a splendidly equipped physical director, she owns there. It has been opened to the women only three weeks, and the enrollment is now eighty-five, showing the urgent demand for such a department.

In the basement of the Franklin Street building is a club room that has been fitted up by the girls, and the domestic science rooms are also in the basement. The parlors, rest rooms, offices and sun parlors are on the first floor, and the upper stories contain apartments for sixty-five boarders and a few transients, and they are always filled.

In the evenings the dining room is cleared of its tables and for the time it is converted into an assembly hall, and it may be said a play room for fun and frolic. Here, as well as in the parlors, the young women entertain their friends and their beaux when they like.

Travelers' Aid Department. It is needless to say that the doors of the association rooms are always open to young women coming to the city to find employment, and here they will get help in that direction and information as to boarding houses; where to go in the city, and where not to go. Efforts are now being made by the general secretary to get the co-operation of the railways and steamboat lines centering in this city to place train tickets at every depot and dock to watch the incoming trains and boats, to look out for and offer protection to women traveling alone, especially young women who are constantly coming to this city looking for employment in the factories, stores, etc., young women drawn here from the villages and the country by the industrial activities.

This effort should be crowned with success, for there is more need than one will readily imagine for these train workers for good. The devil and the hell holes of this so-called Christian city have their workers at every depot, and they have them on the street corners and in the Capital Square and elsewhere, and this same association has saved not a few innocent girls from the clutches of these agents of darkness. Therefore the association knows, as the general Christian public

does not know, the imperative demand for a large, consecrated corps of "train workers," and it is to be hoped that with the co-operation of the railroad and the steamboat lines the travelers' aid department will be quickly and firmly established.

Subsidiary Clubs and Societies. Another policy of the association is to co-operate with all the large or small industrial and mercantile concerns in the city which employ women in any capacities for the welfare and the most good for the young women employed in such establishments. A splendid feature along this line is the organization of clubs among the young women in large establishments, clubs or societies that will operate and work themselves, the same being under the watch, care and general guidance of the Y. W. C. A. These subsidiary clubs will be exactly on the order of college clubs and societies, except that they necessarily have certain features that do not carry with the college societies.

Every factory and store in the city in which many women and girls are employed ought to have among those women and girls just this kind of a club. Under the guidance of the Y. W. C. A. it will rebound to the good not only of the members, but to the factory or store in which they are employed. So far only one such club has been started, and that is just being put on its feet in the great department house of Miller & Rhoads.

A Whirlwind Canvass Is On. The summer homes of the association, which have been at Highland Park and at Richmond Hall at the Union Theological Seminary, are a splendid feature, but it will take another chapter to tell about them. In the winter the gymnasium, the library, the assembly rooms and the parlors furnish the recreation, the fun and the frolic that the girls find in the summer outing places.

I am told that the association is just now inaugurating a campaign to enlarge its endowment and income. I hear that the present effort is to raise about \$10,000 or more, and do it in a hurry, but it is needless for me to talk about that in this article. All or nearly all of the people of Richmond will be apt to hear from it before this week closes.

Indeed, the Young Women's Christian Association is an industrial establishment, and as such is a proper subject for discussion in the Industrial Section.